REMARKS

Formal Matters

Claims 1-6 are pending in the application, but are canceled herein. New claims 7-12 are submitted herein. Support for these new claims can be found in the specification as follows. Support for new claim 7 can be found on page 3, lines 1-24, on page 7, lines 6-28, and in original claim 1; for new claim 8, on page 8, lines 1-7, page 15, line 19 to page 16, line 1, and original claim 3; for new claim 9, original claim 2; for new claim 10, original claim 5; for new claim 11, original claim 6; and for new claim 12, page 3, lines 1-24 and page 19, line 25 to page 20, line 10. No new matter has been added.

Specification

In the specification, the paragraphs beginning on page 3, line 25; page 5, line 16; page 7, line 29; page 10, line 5; page 13, line 10; page 15, line 13; page 17, line 25; and page 18, line 25, have been amended to make minor editorial corrections.

Drawings

A replacement Figure 5 is submitted herewith; it has been amended to make minor corrections.

Rejection of Claims 1 -6 under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being generally narrative and indefinite, failing to conform with current U.S. practice. Claims 1-6 are canceled herein. New claims 7-12 are in a form which conforms with current U.S. practice, including beginning each feature on a separate line and separating features

with semi-colons. Accordingly, applicant requests that independent claims 7 and 9-12 be allowed.

Rejection of Claims 1 -6 under 35 U.S.C. §101

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 1-6 are canceled herein. New claims 7-9 are directed to "an information processing system for managing performance of a business process" which is statutory subject matter. New claim 10 is directed to "a method for managing execution of a business process using an information processing system" which is statutory subject matter. New claim 11 is directed to "a computer readable storage medium on which is stored a computer program of instructions for managing execution of a business process using an information processing system" which is statutory subject matter. New claim 12 is directed to "an information processing system having a storage apparatus" which is statutory subject matter. Accordingly, applicant requests that independent claims 7 and 9-12 be allowed.

Rejection of Claims 1 -6 under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Huang, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,151,582. Claims 1-6 are canceled herein; however, based on the comments and remarks herein, newly submitted claims 7-12 should be allowed.

Huang et al. discloses a system that allows a decision maker in a supply chain to view the chain from his or her own perspective and to understand the effect that his or her decisions will have on the supply chain as a whole (column 1, lines 45-47). Thus a system providing detailed information about one specific business process, the supply chain, is disclosed.

Moreover, Huang et al. discloses a supply chain procedure which is coded in procedure-type language, so that a change in the supply chain procedure necessitates a change in software modules, along with a change in the interaction between modules and perhaps data structures. In the present invention, the business processes are converted not to algorithms executed by computer procedure-type languages but to data relationships and entries in a format comprising five W's and one H, that is, 5W1H-format elemental information comprising Who, to Whom, What, by When, Where, and How much. Thus, changes to business processes in the present invention are similar to data changes not software updates.

Independent new claims 7 and 9-12 are patentable over the cited prior art because they require demand and supply information comprising 5W1H-format elemental information, and information comprising demand and corresponding supply information. Further, claims 7 and 12 require a first and second table stored on the storage apparatus. In addition, claims 9-12 require a business flow, a business flow master and a business process master. Huang et al. does not disclose or suggest the above noted recitations of independent claims 7 and 9-12. Accordingly, applicant requests that independent claims 7 and 9-12 be allowed.

Further, claim 8 depends from independent claim 7, and thus incorporates novel and nonobvious features thereof. Accordingly, claim 8 is patentably distinguishable over the prior art for at least the reasons that independent claim 7 is patentably distinguishable over the prior art.

Conclusion

For at least the reasons set forth in the foregoing discussion, Applicant believes that the Application is now allowable, and respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the rejections and allow the Application. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this Amendment, or regarding the Application generally, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine R. Vieyra
Registration No. 47,155

Scully, Scott, Murphy & Presser, P.C.
400 Garden City Plaza, Suite 300
Garden City, New York 11530
(516) 742-4343

KRV/kc